

CHAPTER II

POPULATION AND ECONOMY

The quantity as well as the character of housing needed and land used depends largely on the characteristics of an area's population and economy. In other words, if an area increases in population and employment, the demand for housing and the demand for land to accommodate a more intensive type of land development increases proportionally. Also, for example, if an area has a population which is predominately composed of a particular age group, the housing and land use types should correspondingly reflect as well as accommodate the needs of the predominate age group. The population and economy information which is provided within this section will therefore be used throughout the formulation of this document as a basis for projecting future land use and housing requirements for Vance County.

Present Population

According to the North Carolina Office of Research and Planning Services' brochure, "North Carolina Municipal Populations (1976)," Vance County's estimated population is approximately 33,800, which is a 3.4 percent increase over its 1970 population of 32,691. The municipalities in Vance County were also estimated to have increased in population since 1970. The City of Henderson increased from 13,896 in 1970 to 14,280 in 1976, Kittrell from 427 in 1970 to 620 in 1976, and Middleburg from 149 in 1970 to 170 in 1976. Approximately 54 percent of the total increase between 1970 and 1976 occurred within the county's incorporated areas with 35 percent occurring within the City of Henderson alone.